

REMARKS

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 1, 9, 18, and 19 are amended. No new matter is presented in any of the foregoing and, accordingly, approval and entry of the amended claims are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 are pending and under consideration.

Item 3: Allowable Subject Matter

In item 3 of the Office Action the Examiner indicates that claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14-15, and 18-19 would be allowable if amended to overcome the 35 U.S.C. §112, 2nd paragraph rejections set forth in item 2 of the Office Action. (Action at page 3) Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

Item 2: Rejection of claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112

In item 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §112 as indefinite.

I. In rejecting claims 1, 9, and 19, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "of near stores" is indefinite and unclear. (Action at pages 2-3).

Claims 1, 9, and 19 are amended herein to address the Examiner's concern and delete the term "near" and recite, using claim 1 as an example, "identifying inventory information of stores having an address which is in proximity to an address designated by the customer (emphasis added)."

Applicants point out that if the term --nearest-- was included, as suggested by the Examiner, the term would be duplicative of the recited phrase "in proximity to."

II. In rejecting claims 1, 9, and 19, the Examiner asserts that the phrase "the respective plurality of stores" and in claims 1, 9, 18, and 19 the phrase "a partial march of the first n digits" lack proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1, 9, 18, and 19 are amended herein to address the Examiner's concern and provide proper antecedent basis.

Summary

Applicants submit that claims 1, 9, 18, and 19, all as amended herein, (and respective dependent claims 2-3, 5-7, 14, 15) comply with 35 U.S.C. §112 and request the rejection be withdrawn and claims 1-3, 5-7, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 allowed.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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